



PROSTATE CANCER: ADDRESSING THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH AMONG MEN

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- In 2002, approximately 189,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and 30,200 men will die of the disease.
- Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men, with over 80% of all cases occurring in men over age 65.
- At all ages, African-American men are diagnosed with the disease at later stages and die of prostate cancer more often than do white men. The reasons for the greater incidence and mortality among African-American men are unknown.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC educates providers and the public about screening and treatment options and helps states build prostate cancer public health programs. CDC also supports grantees for comprehensive cancer control efforts, including activities targeting prostate cancer. Activities include establishing broad-based coalitions, coordinating surveillance and developing and disseminating public education programs to reduce cancer risk. To enable states to better design public health programs to control the disease, CDC is enhancing prostate cancer data in cancer registries, especially with regard to stage of diagnosis, quality of care and racial and ethnic information. CDC also sponsors research to determine whether screening for prostate cancer reduces deaths, highlights current screening practices among providers and explores the public's knowledge and awareness regarding prostate cancer screening.

Example of program in action: CDC is working with the University of California at Berkeley through CDC's Prevention Research Centers network to examine clinical and demographic factors that may explain the increased risk for prostate cancer among African-American men. Findings from this research will be used to better tailor prostate cancer prevention efforts.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

To advance efforts targeting prostate cancer, CDC is supporting additional state comprehensive cancer control programs, which include prostate cancer; conducting surveillance to determine knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of men and health care providers about prostate cancer screening and treatment options; developing a health communications campaign to provide accurate, balanced information to patients and health care providers and promote informed decision-making regarding prostate cancer screening, early detection and treatment; and conducting epidemiologic and behavioral research to build the science base for this disease.

For information on this and other CDC programs, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/programs>

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